

April 19, 1999

Docket Management Branch (HFA-305)  
Food and Drug Administration  
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061  
Rockville, MD 20852

0279 '99 APR 26 AM 10:30

RE: FDA Docket No. 98N-1038

Comments in response to the Food and Drug Administration's request for comments on irradiated foods.

Dear Sirs,

I am writing this letter to the FDA's actions on labeling irradiated foods. I am very disappointed by the industry efforts to reduce the size of labeling for irradiated foods, using different names such as "cold pasteurized" and to set an expiration date for any labeling of irradiated foods after consumers have become accustomed to the change.

As a consumer who values choices and is concerned about my health, I urge you to label all irradiated foods with the word "Irradiated" and the Radura symbol. The FDA is allowing foods to be on market unlabeled although according to the January 11, 1999 *Time* magazine article, public opinion polls show 81% of Americans want their foods labeled.

I also urge you to label irradiated ingredients to match labeling recommendations from the USDA. As a buying consumer I would also like bulk produce labeled with large signs so that consumers know that individual items have been irradiated. I also want these foods labeled permanently and no expiration date! Consumers always want to know if their food has been irradiated because this can change the taste, texture, smell and nutrition of foods.

The FDA, USDA, and EPA are being negligent in protecting American rights by allowing these products. I don't want to eat irradiated foods, but without labeling I and others will never know about these issues. I am asking you to label all irradiated foods. Americans should have a choice about irradiated foods. Thank you for your consideration on this issue.

Sincerely,



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